

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 26, 2016
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Public hearing at 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 31, on amendments to pain management rule

DES MOINES, IA – The Iowa Board of Medicine will hold a public hearing at 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 31, 2016, on proposed amendments to the Board's administrative rule on resources physicians are encouraged to consult when diagnosing and treating patients with chronic pain.

The proposed amendments to 653 IAC Chapter 13.2(8) update the description of the Interagency Guideline on Prescribing Opioids for Pain and add the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain.

The hearing will be held at the Board's office, 400 SW Eighth Street, Suite C, Des Moines. Written comments on the amendments must be received by the agency by 4:30 p.m. May 31.

Developed by the Washington State Agency Medical Directors' Group in collaboration with an expert advisory panel, actively practicing providers and public stakeholders, this nationally recognized guideline focuses on evidence-based treatment for chronic-pain patients. The guideline was published in 2007 and updated in 2015.

The CDC Guideline was issued on March 15, 2016, and provides recommendations for the prescribing of opioid pain medication for patients 18 years of age and older in primary care settings. Recommendations focus on the use of opioids in treating chronic pain (pain lasting longer than three months or past the time of normal tissue healing) outside of active cancer treatment, palliative care, and end-of-life care.

In addition to guidelines from the CDC and the Washington State group, the list includes several other nationally recognized resources. The list is provided for the convenience of physicians, and the publications included are not intended to be incorporated in the rule by reference.

The following is ARC2535C, the notice of intended action to amend 653 IAC Chapter 13, as published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on May 11, 2016:

MEDICINE BOARD[653]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.”

Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 147.76, the Board of Medicine hereby proposes to amend Chapter 13, “Standards of Practice and Principles of Medical Ethics,” Iowa Administrative Code.

The purpose of Chapter 13 is to establish standards of practice and principles of medical ethics for administrative medicine physicians, medical physicians and surgeons, and osteopathic physicians and surgeons. The proposed amendments update the Board’s recommended resources for physicians who treat chronic pain.

The Board approved this Notice of Intended Action during a regularly scheduled meeting on April 8, 2016.

Any interested person may present written comments on the proposed amendments not later than 4:30 p.m. on May 31, 2016. Such written materials should be sent to Mark Bowden, Executive Director, Board of Medicine, 400 S.W. Eighth Street, Suite C, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4686; or sent by e-mail to mark.bowden@iowa.gov.

There will be a public hearing on May 31, 2016, at 11 a.m. at the Board’s office, 400 S.W. Eighth Street, Suite C, Des Moines, Iowa, at which time persons may present their views either orally or in writing.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 147, 148 and 272C.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Amend paragraph **13.2(8)“e”** as follows:

~~e. Interagency Guideline on Opioid Dosing for Chronic Non-cancer Pain~~ Prescribing Opioids for Pain. In March 2007, the Washington State Agency Medical Directors’ Group published an educational pilot to improve care and safety of patients with chronic, noncancer pain who are treated with opioids. The guidelines include opioid dosing recommendations. Developed by the Washington State Agency Medical Directors’ Group in collaboration with an expert advisory panel, actively practicing providers and public stakeholders, the guideline focuses on evidence-based treatment for chronic-pain patients. The guideline was published in 2007 and updated in 2015.

ITEM 2. Adopt the following new paragraph **13.2(8)“h”**:

h. CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain. On March 15, 2016, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a guideline to provide recommendations for the prescribing of opioid pain medication for patients 18 years of age and older in primary care settings. Recommendations focus on the use of opioids in treating chronic pain (pain lasting longer than three months or past the time of normal tissue healing) outside of active cancer treatment, palliative care, and end-of-life care.